

We Claim:

1. A process for nucleic acid delivery to a cell, comprising:
- a) preparing a nucleic acid molecule having an expressible sequence;
 - b) attaching a compound to the nucleic acid molecule within the expressible sequence, utilizing a modifying chemical attachment; and,
 - c) delivering the nucleic acid to a cell where the expressible sequence is expressed.
2. The process of claim 1 wherein the level of expression obtained is greater than 40% of the level of expression obtained from the expressible sequence not having a modifying chemical attachment.
3. The process of claim 2 wherein the compound comprises a nucleic acid transfer enhancing signal.
4. The process of claim 3 wherein the nucleic acid transfer enhancing signal is selected from the group consisting of a nuclear localizing signal, a ligand that binds a receptor, and a releasing signal.
5. A process of claim 1 wherein the compound is selected from a group of consisting of an enhanced immune response molecule, an antigen, an antibody, a hapten, a membrane active compound, a peptide, a polymer, a polyion, and a fluorescent compound.
6. A process of claim 1 whereby the compound is attached to the N7 position of guanine.
7. The process of claim 1 wherein step of attaching comprises modifying the nucleic acid using an alkylating molecule.
8. The process of claim 7 wherein the alkylating molecule is selected from the group consisting of a mustard and a 3-membered ring system.

9. The process of claim 8 wherein the mustard is selected from the group consisting of a nitrogen mustard and a sulfur mustard.
10. The process of claim 9 wherein the 3-membered ring system is selected from the group consisting of aziridines, oxiranes, cyclopropyls, and episulfides.
11. The process of claim 9 wherein the nitrogen mustard consists of an R-chloride derivative.
12. The process of claim 7 wherein the 3-membered ring system consists of a CPI moiety.
13. The process of claim 1 wherein the nucleic acid consists of double-stranded and single stranded DNA.
14. A process of claim 1 wherein the step of attaching the compound comprises forming a Lewis acid:Lewis base complex, wherein the Lewis acid is not hydrogen.
15. A process of claim 14 wherein the Lewis acid is a transition metal.
16. A process of claim 15 wherein the Lewis acid is platinum.
17. A process of claim 14 wherein the Lewis base is N7 of guanine.
18. A complex for delivering nucleic acid to a cell, comprising: a plurality of a compound attached by a modifying chemical attachment to the nucleic acid in an amount sufficient to alter the tertiary structure of the nucleic acid when compared to the complex wherein the compound is not attached.

19. A complex of claim 18 wherein the change in tertiary structure results in a compaction or reduction in volume or a reduction in hydrodynamic radius of the nucleic acid.
20. A complex of claim 18 wherein the change in tertiary structure results in a retention of greater than 40% expression of the expressible sequence when compared to unmodified nucleic acid.
21. A complex of claim 18 wherein the compound attached to the nucleic acid is net positive, neutral, or net negative charge.
22. A complex of claim 18 whereby the compound is attached to the N7 position of guanine.
23. The complex of claim 18 wherein step of attaching comprises modifying the nucleic acid using an alkylating molecule.
24. The complex of claim 23 wherein the alkylating molecule is selected from the group consisting of a mustard and a 3-membered ring system.
25. The complex of claim 24 wherein the mustard is selected from the group consisting of a nitrogen mustard and a sulfur mustard.
26. The complex of claim 25 wherein the 3-membered ring system is selected from the group consisting of aziridines, oxiranes, cyclopropyls, and episulfides.
27. The complex of claim 26 wherein the nitrogen mustard consists of an R-chloride derivative.
28. The complex of claim 24 wherein the 3-membered ring system consists of a CPI moiety.

29. A complex of claim 18 wherein the step of attaching the compound comprises forming a Lewis acid:Lewis base complex, wherein the Lewis acid is not hydrogen.
30. A complex of claim 29 wherein the Lewis acid is a transition metal.
31. A complex of claim 30 wherein the Lewis acid is platinum.
32. A complex of claim 29 wherein the Lewis base is N7 of guanine.
33. An *in vivo* cell delivery complex, comprising: a complex formed by the process of claim 1.